

FAMILY HISTORY

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THE MURDOCK FAMILY

Taken from the "Murdock Genealogy" book

Members of the Murdock family do not make their appearance on our colonial records until late in the seventh century. The family is unquestionably of Scotch origin, but the name is not uncommon in the northern part of England and appears frequently in Ireland, especially in Ulster. There was but little emigration to America from these sections in the early years of the seventh century. New England and Virginia being settled from the south and east of England. The first Scotch settlement of any importance was probably that of the prisoners captured at the battle of Dunbar by Cromwell in 1650. Many of these unquestionably left descendants, but they are not mentioned as such in the records. Later on in the century an emigration took place from southwestern Scotland to Ulster and to America, to escape from the persistent persecution of the inhabitants of that section by the Church of England, and later by the Roman Catholic administration of James ^{the} Second. Many Scotch came to America between 1680 and 1688, one of whom was undoubtedly John Murdock of Plymouth, and another, it all probability Robert Murdock of Roxbury. No record of the arrival of either is known, but they were the progenitors of nearly all the Murdocks in Massachusetts up to the time of the Revolution. Another immigrant, Peter Murdock, born in Ireland, the son of John of Limerick, settled in Saybrook, Connecticut, perhaps about 1720.

Prior to 1745 there was little or no emigration from the Highlands of Scotland, in which the historic "clans" lived. After the battle of Culloden, the retaliatory measures of the British government included the breaking up of the clan system, and the deportation of the clansmen, most of whom were sent to the American colonies, and the names of the Highland clans have become common throughout the United States, but there is no record of any Murdoch clan, although the name is common among all the clans as a given name. In all recent immigration to America it is noticeable that nearly all Murdocks came from Ayrshire or other counties of southwestern Scotland, and this fact invites attention to that region.

A tradition of interest to all branches of the family connects it with the struggle of Robert Bruce to gain the crown of Scotland. In the spring of 1307 his fortunes were at a very low ebb, when, having landed in Carrick, his own earldom, he was chased by his foes into the highlands of Galloway.

Murdoch was apparently a given name before it became a family name, and appears in its Irish and Gaelic forms, as well as in Scotch. The most celebrated instance is that of Murdoch, Duke of Albany, who was a member of the royal family of Stuart. While it is almost impossible to trace facts in early Scottish history, it is interesting to note that the name of Murdock seems to first appear as a surname near the English border. In the region, the population was of complex origin, containing Celtic and Anglo-Saxon elements, and later, as elsewhere in southern Scotland, a Norman infusion. The name of Johann Murthoc of the "county of Dumfries" appears on the "Ragman Roll" of 1296, in company with that of Robert Bruce both of whom swore fealty to Edward the First of England.

On the list of knights who accompanied William the Conqueror in his invasion of England appears the name of Murdac. Henry Murdac, a member of a Yorkshire family, was Archbishop of York in 1151.

From Files of Ardath M Webb (Floyd) 9-10-91

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While speculation is interesting, it is well to bear in mind that orthography is the weakest of all genealogical evidence. Even so late as the American Revolution the muster rolls of the Massachusetts troops have the name Murdock, not only in that form, but also as Mardock, Mordock, Moredock, Murdoc, Murdock, Marduch, Muredock, and Murlock. One ingenious town clerk in Connecticut also contributed Merodach.

It has been found impossible to differentiate in between the spellings of Murdock and Murdoch, and the former is used throughout, with the exception of names in Scotland, and in one branch in which the latter form has been used since the time of the first settler. The spelling in the United States has become largely a matter of taste, and sons frequently change that used by their father, while brothers differ among themselves.

ROBERT MURDOCK OF ROXBURY AND SOME OF HIS DESCENDANTS

FIRST GENERATION

Robert is known only by the records in which his name appears, there being practically no family tradition except that he was born in Scotland. This is sometimes coupled with the statement that he came from Scotland to Plymouth in 1688 in company with his brother John. For a few years preceding the English revolution of that year, there was considerable emigration from the south western part of Scotland to northern Ireland, and a few families came directly to New England to escape the religious persecutions against the Covenanters, who were numerous in that part of Scotland. John Murdock, or Mordo, as his name is written in the early New England records, was married to Abigail Young, probably a native of Plymouth Colony, December 10, 1686. His advent may therefore be placed with considerable probability in 1685 or 1586. There is no record of the arrival of either Robert or John, and nothing to show whether they came together or at different times.

A diligent search of all accessible records, conducted by different persons through many years, has failed to discover any evidence of relationship, or even acquaintance, between Robert and John. The latter became an influential resident of Plymouth, occupying many positions of importance, and his name appears very frequently in the records of Plymouth Colony, and after its junction with Massachusetts, in those of Suffolk County, now preserved in Boston. If any relationship existed between these two men, living only twenty five miles apart for sixty years, it seems as though some evidence of it must have crept into the records. Nothing of the kind has been discovered.

The records of Newton, Massachusetts, mention the death of Robert on April 28, 1754, his age being given as 89. This gives the only existing evidence of the date of his birth as 1665. The first contemporaneous record is that of his marriage in Roxbury in 1692. He was twenty-seven years old, and having no family, probably never purchased any property before his marriage, and was sufficiently well behaved to keep off the court records. On April 28, 1692, he married in Roxbury, Massachusetts, to Hannah Stedman, the daughter of

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Nathaniel and Granddaughter of Isaac Stedman. The latter was born in Riddenden, County Kent, England, being baptized April 21, 1675, and came to New England in 1636 with his wife Elizabeth and two sons, Nathaneal and Thomas. He first settled in Scituate, but later removed toto Boston, dying at Muddy River, now Brookline, in 1678, his son Nathaneal dying intestate in November of the same year before his father s will was settled. No record of the marriage of Nathaneal has been found, but his widow Temperance was made administratrix of his estate "in riht of herself and children. " There is a possibility that she was the daughter of Michael Wills of Dorchester, or she may have born in England.

Robert Murdock lived in Roxbury for several years after his marriage, but apparently bought no land there. In later years he was a housewright, and this may explain his not investing in real estate. He advanced money on two mortgages, and in company with Temperance and his brother-in-law Nathaneal Stedman sold land in Cambridge in 1693, which was part of the estate of his wife's father. In 1698 Robert and Hannah Murdock and David and Mary Stowell (the sister Of Hannah) sold land in Woburn which was also part of the Stedman estate.

On June 1, 1703, Robert bought a house and one hundred and twenty acres of land in Newton, from Jonathan Hyde and John Woodward, and made this his permanent residence, although the exact date of his removal from Roxbury is no/ known. This land was situated on the Dedham road between Newton Upper Falls and West Roxbury. Deeds of 1726 and 1732 refer to him as s housewright and he built a shop near his house. On April 28, 1747 he sold this property for L1,500 to his son Robert, who probably cared for him during the remainder of his life. His wife Hannah died August 17, 1727, at the age of sixty, and he afterwards married Mrs. Abigail (White) Read, the widow of Samuel Read of Mendon, Massachusetts. He died April 28, 1754, his will, signed June 18, 1747, bequeathing personal property only, to the amount of L536, his eldest son Rpbert receiving a double portion and being named as executor. The widow Abigail moved to Uxbridge, Massachusetts, where she lived with some of her children and died October 9, 1761.

Rpbert's mane is spelled in a variety of ways in his ddds, the spelling of the day being largely phonetic. His autograph of 1700 reads "Murdock", and his sons used the same form.

Signed --- Robert Murdock

CHILDREN, BORN IN Roxbury, Massachusettes:

Nannah b. Jan 7, 1693

Robert, b. Feb 1, 1694

John, b. Mar. 25, 1696

Samuel, b. Mar 24, 1698

Denjamin, b. Mar. 4 , 1700

Hannah B. May 22, 1705: M. Nehemiah Hyde in Newton in 1729

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SECOND GENERATION OF ROBERT MURDOCK OF ROXBURY

Samuel (Robert¹) was born in Roxbury, Massachusetts, March 24, 1698, and Married Submit (Dan¹, William¹) Throop in Lebanon, Connecticut, June 24, 1725. She was born in Bristol, Massachusetts (now Rhode Island), December 25, 1706, the daughter of Dan Debrah (Macey) Throop, and died in Windham, Connecticut, October 17, 1784. The Throop family of Connecticut claim tht William Throop of Bristol, Massachuseets, was the son of Adrian Scroop, the regicide.

He joined many of his relatives in the migration from Newton to Connecticut, bought land in Lebanon, and was admitted to the church there with his wife in 1726. He bought one hundred and twenty-two acres of land in Windham, Connecticut, in 1735, and ninety more adjoining, in 1736, and moved to Windham the next year. He was a prominent citizen of Windham, and was admitted to the church in 1738. Connecticut Colonial Records give his commission as "Captain of the Troop of Horse of the Fifth Regiment" in 1741. He was Deputy for Windham in the General Assembly in 1756, 1757, 1759, 1760, 1761, 1764 and 1766. He died in Windham, January 17, 1769, and is buried with his wife and daughter Eunice in the old cemetery at Windham.

Children born in Lebanon:

Hannah b. Aug 25 1726 m. Moses Hebard in Windham Mar 31, 1744

William, b. July 26, 1728: d. Young.

Samuel b. Aug 27, 1729

Jonathan b Feb. 19, 1733.

Submit b. Nov. 13, 1734: m Hezekiah Huntington in Windham, Nov. 28, 1754

William b. 2 Jan. 1739: m 1st Mary Pierce, born 1740 d. 1774: m 2nd Sarah Deenz

Dan b Feb 24, 1742

Lydia b. June 28, 1745 1745, D in Windham Aug. 8 1770: m. Thomas S. Warner in Windham , No. 1, 1769

Eliphalet b. Oct 5, 1748.

Eunice, b. Jan. 29, 1750: d Feb. 16, 1752

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THIRD GENERATION OF ROBERT MURDOCK OF ROXBURY

WILLIAM, (Samuel², Robert¹) was born in Windham, Connecticut, January 2, 1738 - 9. He married Mary Pierce, in Lebanon, Connecticut, December 11, 1760. She was the daughter of Caleb (Benjamin², Michael¹) Pierce and Hannah Tilden, the daughter of Stephen Tilden of Lebanon. The latter was a descendant of Richard Warren of the "Mayflower." Mary Pierce was born in Lebanon, September 12, 1740, and died there January 26, 1774. William married Sarah Dean as his second wife in Lebanon, July 14, 1774. She died in Hamilton, New York, April 20, 1826. William served in Capt. Jonathan Pudd's company of the Fifth Connecticut Regiment in the campaign for the relief of General Webb at Fort William Henry in August, 1757. He also served in the Revolution.

William moved to Rensselaerville, New York, in 1792, and leased lot 166 at that place on April 24, 1795. He moved thence to Hamilton, Madison County, New York, in 1802, and died there October 26, 1811. He and his wife are buried in the old graveyard at Graham's Corner.

Children, born in Lebanon, Connecticut:

Hannah, b. Dec. 5, 1761 m Samuel Sebree she died at Verona, N.Y.

Eunice b. Nov 18, 1763 d. at Darien N.Y. Dec 33, 1834 M. Ariel Murdock.

Lois, b. Sept 25, 1766: m. Dan Beaumont in Lebanon

Caleb Pierce b. Sept. 25, 1765, d Oct 8., 1765

Esther, b Feb. 1, 1769: M. Joseph Fitch, Dec. 18, 1794.

William, b. Feb. 20, 1771

Mary b. Dec 28, 1773

Eliphalet, b July 13, 1775

Fanny, b. Nov. 26, 1777: m Elijah Haynes Lst : 2nd Chauncey Isham

Salome (Sally), b. May 14, 1780 m. Elijah Douglass

Joseph, b Nov., 14, 1783

Betsey, b Mar. 10, 1788: m. William Rhodes, she died in Hamilton N. Y. 1863

Calinda, b. Oct .5, 1790: M. Lambert Fuller

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Fourth Generation of ROBERT HENDOCK OF FOXBURY

Joseph (William's, Samuel's, Robert) was born in Lebanon, Connecticut, November 14, 1783, and went with his father to Hamilton, New York, in 1802. He married Sarah Horney, and, second, Sally, daughter of Nymphus Stacy of New Salem, Mass. The whole family joined the Mormons and went West. Joseph died at Nauvoo, Illinois. (the descendants of Joseph and of John Hendock: (5180)

CHILDREN BORN IN HAMILTON, NEW YORK

Who also joined the Mormons, and given at length in the Utah Genealogical and Historical Magazine for 1923 and 1924)

Betsy (daughter of Sarah Tomney), b. May 6 1810:d.Oct 1, 1883

Joseph Stacy, probably b. about 1817: d. in Utah, Feb. 15, 1899

John Dean b. July 28, 1824: m Mary Jane Morris, Jan. 25, 1846 No children.

Nymphus Coridon, b. May 12, 1833, d. in Reber City, Utah Apr. 29, 1917.

Three other by the second wife, d. young)